AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 17 and 18.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling the frequency of oscillation of a local clock signal comprising the steps of:

(A) generating said local clock signal in response to a first control signal;

(B) generating said first control signal in response to one of a plurality of adjustment signals selected in response to a second control signal; and

(C) generating said second control signal in response to a comparison between a local timestamp and an external timestamp, wherein (i) said second control signal selects said one of a plurality of adjustment signals when a difference between said local time stamp and said external timestamp is outside a predefined margin, (ii) no adjustment signals are selected when said difference is within said predefined margin, and (iii) said predetermined margin is configurable.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second control signal is generated in further response to said local clock signal.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said external timestamp comprises an extracted headend timestamp.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 3, wherein said extracted headend timestamp is embedded in a bitstream received from a satellite.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 4, wherein said bitstream comprises a digital bitstream.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said local timestamp comprises timing information in a satellite set-top box.

7. (ORIGINAL) A computer readable medium configured to store instructions for executing the steps of claim 1.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein said instructions are further configured to execute steps for controlling a satellite set top box.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

means for generating a clock signal in response to a first control signal;

means for generating said first control signal in response to one of a plurality of adjustment signals selected in response to a second control signal; and

means for generating said second control signal in response to a comparison between a local timestamp and an external timestamp, wherein (i) second control signal selects said one of a plurality of adjustment signals when a difference between said local time stamp and said external timestamp is outside a predefined margin, (ii) no adjustment signals are selected when said difference is within said predefined margin and (iii) said predetermined margin is configurable.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

an oscillator configured to generate a clock signal in response to a first control signal;

an adjustment circuit configured to generate said first control signal in response to one of a plurality of adjustment signals selected in response to a second control signal; and

a tuning circuit configured to generate said second control signal in response to a comparison between a local timestamp and an external timestamp, wherein (i) second control signal selects said one of a plurality of adjustment signals when a difference between said local time stamp and said external timestamp is outside a predefined margin, (ii) no adjustment

signals are selected when said difference is within said predefined margin and (iii) said predetermined margin is configurable.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of adjustment signals comprise multiplexer configuration signals.

12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said adjustment circuit comprises (i) a processor configured to generate said first control signal and (ii) memory configured to store instructions for generating said first control signal.

13. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said external timestamp comprises an extracted headend timestamp.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said extracted headend timestamp is embedded in a bitstream received from a satellite.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said bitstream comprises a digital bitstream.

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said local timestamp comprises timing information in a satellite set-top box.

17. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined margin is configurable in response to a control signal received from a computer readable medium configured to execute steps for controlling a satellite set-top box.

18. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method generates an error message if said local time stamp and said external time stamp are not within said predetermined margin.